

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 449 - SB 516

March 2, 2015

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Changes, from three to two, the number of standardized assessments that students must take to fulfill graduation requirements. The two required assessments shall be administered in the eighth and tenth grades. Requires all 11<sup>th</sup> grade students who are applying or intend to apply to a post-secondary education institution to take an academic or vocational exit exam. Authorizes 11<sup>th</sup> grade students to opt-out of such tests if they do not plan on attending a post-secondary education institution.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Other Fiscal Impact - To the extent that 11<sup>th</sup> grade students opt out of taking a standardized academic or vocational test, local education agencies (LEAs) will either save a portion of the funding that would have gone to pay for students' test vouchers or such funds will be reallocated to another budget purpose. The extent of any such funding cannot be reasonably quantified. Otherwise, the fiscal impact for the bill is estimated to be not significant.**

Assumptions:

- The BEP formula's classroom category includes vouchers for the ACT, SAT and Work-Key assessments.
- If any students opt of taking 11<sup>th</sup> grade standardized test, local education agencies may save a small amount of state and local funding that they have received or will be able to reallocate this funding to another budget item. The amount of this savings is dependent upon the number of students who opt out each year and the cost of the standardized test.
- No change in state or local Basic Education Program (BEP) since the formula does not take into account the number of actual test takers from the previous fiscal year, but the number of students who will be eligible to take standardized tests in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Jeffrey L. Spalding".

Jeffrey L. Spalding, Executive Director

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